

Unexpected Trips

Luke 2:1-7

“And because Joseph was a descendent of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.” - Luke 2:4

Main Point: Reflect on the true meaning of Christmas this year

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Do you typically travel for Christmas? Where do you go?

Did you ever have to take an unexpected trip over the holidays? Why?

It’s not fun being caught off guard. It is much easier to handle things when you feel like there is a plan in place. Mary was expecting to have a child soon when Rome called for a census. This threw her and Joseph for a loop and they had to make preparations to take an unexpected trip back to Bethlehem. This required a lot of planning in their situation. When we think about Christmas today there are some things we can do to be ready in anticipation.

Three ways you can be ready for Christmas are:

1) **PREPARE. Read Luke 2:1-5.**

What are some things you do to prepare for Christmas? What about for a road trip?

What had God put into place to prepare for the first Christmas in order to fulfill the prophecies of Jesus’ birth? Why is this significant and what does it tell you about our God?

How can you prepare yourself and your family to come into contact with Jesus this year? What new traditions could you start that point others to Jesus and not the commercial side of Christmas?

2) **BE AWARE. Read Luke 2:6.**

Mary was fully aware of the fact that she was pregnant and close to giving birth. What things are you painfully aware of this Christmas season? What is your awareness of God in the situation?

Read Philippians 2:6-8. Jesus came despite his awareness of the mission he was called to. What does this teach us about Him? What was he trying to communicate to us?

3) **DECIDE. Read Luke 2:7.**

What decisions have you made pertaining to Christmas this year? How difficult was it to make those decisions?

When did you decide to invite Jesus into your life? How are you sharing Him with others at this time in your life?

Have you made the decision to open yourself up to Him to lead your life? Or are you going to continue to try and make it on your own?

Apply It:

How different would your Christmas look this year if you stripped down all of the commercial trappings and holiday hubbub and focused on Christ instead?

What can we do in our homes and in our church to help make people more aware of what Jesus did by coming into the world for us?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the unexpected things in life and the blessings they can bring. Help us prepare our hearts for an encounter with Christ this Christmas and make the decision to honor Him in our lives. You are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and we give you praise!

Coming up at VillageChurch:

Dec. 3rd - VillageKids Happy Birthday Jesus

Dec. 10th - A Village Christmas

Dec. 17th - Haiti Mission Team Interest Meeting; 2018 Budget Meeting/Vote